Where does my tax go? 💰

by Jupps | Mar 27, 2025

We've heard a lot about paying taxes recently, but what do we get for it?

1. Health Services 💉

About **40%** of your taxes fund the NHS – covering hospitals, GP services, mental health care, medications, and more.

2. Education 🎓

Approximately **10-15%** goes toward schools, colleges, universities, and funding for student loans. • This also includes early childhood education and programs to support teachers.

3. Social Welfare • Around **20-25%** is allocated to pensions, unemployment benefits, housing benefits, and disability allowances. • This helps support individuals and families in need.

4. Public Infrastructure 🚆

This includes transportation networks like roads, railways, and public transport. • Usually around **5-10%** of total tax spending.

5. Defence and Security

About **5-10%** goes toward maintaining the armed forces, police, and emergency services. This ensures national security and public safety.

6. Local Government Services A portion of your taxes funds waste collection, social housing, local libraries, and other community services. • This varies by region but is usually **2-5%**.

7. Debt Interest

Typically **5-7%** is spent on servicing the national debt—that means paying interest on loans the government has taken out. • The **2023/24** figure is actually a little higher than average at **10.2%** – reflecting higher worldwide interest rates in recent years.

8. International Aid 🌍

Generally around **1-2%** supports overseas development and humanitarian aid projects. This was only **0.7%** in **2023/24**.

9. Environment

About **1-2%** goes towards environmental protection.

10. Culture 🎭

Another small slice – about **1%** goes towards things such as sports, libraries, and museums.

The percentages vary depending on yearly budgets, economic conditions, and government priorities – e. g. the announcement in the **Spring Statement** yesterday of an increase in defence spending.

You can access the latest annual summary of how your taxes are spent online through your **personal tax account**.

For more information, see the government website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-public-spending-was-calculated-in-your-tax-summary/how-public-spending-was-calculated-in-your-tax-summary

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